

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Docket No. 2000-84-C

Application of PRTCommunications,)
LLC, for a Certificate of Public Convenience)
and Necessity to Provide Local Exchange)
Service Customers Located in Certain Areas)
of the State of South Carolina Currently)
Being Service by GTE South, Inc.)
_____)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JAMES P. WILDER

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.**

2 **A.**My name is James P. Wilder, and my business address is 201 Anderson Drive, Laurens,
3 South Carolina 29360.

4
5 **Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?**

6 **A.**I am Chairman and President of the Applicant, PRTCommunications, LLC. I am also
7 Chief Executive Officer of its parent company, Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative,
8 Inc.

9
10 **Q. PLEASE BRIEFLY STATE YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND**
11 **EXPERIENCE IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY.**

12 **A.**I received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Clemson University in 1965. I
13 began my career in the telecommunications industry in 1970 as a Network Engineer with

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THE EXCEPTION OF THE FORM OF THE
SIGNATURE, OF THE E-FILED COPY SUBMITTED
TO THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS
ELECTRONIC FILING INSTRUCTIONS.**

1 Public Service Telephone Company of Reynolds, Georgia. I was promoted to Vice
2 President in 1973 and had assignments and increasing responsibility within Public
3 Service Telephone Company, including outside plant, central office installation and
4 maintenance, toll or long distance installation and maintenance, local service rate case,
5 toll separation studies, and various other assignments. I was employed by Piedmont
6 Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. in 1989 as Assistant General Manager. I was
7 promoted to General Manager in 1992, with management responsibilities for the overall
8 operations of Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

9
10 **Q. HAVE YOU EVER TESTIFIED BEFORE THIS COMMISSION IN OTHER**
11 **PROCEEDINGS?**

12 **A.** Yes. I previously testified on behalf of PRTCommunications, LLC, in its application for
13 authority to provide local exchange telecommunications services within certain defined
14 areas of the State of South Carolina.

15
16 **Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

17 **A.** I am testifying on behalf of PRTCommunications, LLC. The purpose of my testimony is
18 to describe the services PRTCommunications, LLC, proposes to provide, to describe the
19 geographic areas that it seeks to serve, and to demonstrate that it possesses sufficient
20 technical, financial, and managerial resources to provide local exchange
21 telecommunications services within the defined areas of the State of South Carolina.

1 **Q. PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PRTCOMMUNICATIONS.**

2 **A.** PRTCommunications, LLC, was organized as a limited liability company in South
3 Carolina in January 1998. PRTCommunications, LLC, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of
4 Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. This Commission has previously granted
5 PRTCommunications a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate as a
6 reseller of intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South
7 Carolina. See Order No. 1999-619, dated September 1, 1999, issued in Docket No. 1999-
8 310-C. This Commission has also previously granted PRTCommunications a certificate
9 of public convenience and necessity authorizing PRTCommunications, LLC, to provide
10 local exchange telecommunications service to customers located in certain areas of the
11 State of South Carolina being served by GTE South, Inc. (now Verizon South, Inc.), and
12 approving flexible regulation for PRTCommunications, LLC. See Order No. 200-498,
13 dated June 13, 2000, issued in this docket.

14
15 **Q. WHAT AUTHORITY IS PRTCOMMUNICATIONS, LLC, SEEKING FROM**
16 **THE COMMISSION IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

17 **A.** PRTCommunications, LLC, seeks to expand the certificate of public convenience and
18 necessity previously granted in this docket to serve customers located in those areas of
19 the State of South Carolina presently served by United Telephone Company of the
20 Carolinas, Inc. (now known as "Embarq") that are contiguous to the area served by
21 PRTCommunications, LLC's, parent company, Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative,
22 Inc. Specifically, PRTCommunications, LLC, seeks to serve customers located in the
23 following exchanges: Ware Shoals, Hodges, Greenwood, Ninety Six, Troy, Saluda,

1 Chappells, Cross Hill, and Mountville. PRTCommunications will provide the same service,
2 under the same terms and conditions, to customers located in the expanded area as it is
3 currently providing to customers in its presently certificated service area.
4 PRTCommunications will offer the service at rates comparable to those of the incumbent
5 LEC serving the area, as reflected on the revised tariff pages, which are attached as Exhibit
6 A to the application.

7
8 **Q. DOES PRTCOMMUNICATIONS, LLC, POSSESS SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL,**
9 **MANAGERIAL, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE THE**
10 **PROPOSED SERVICES FOR WHICH IT REQUESTS AUTHORITY?**

11 **A.** PRTCommunications, LLC, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piedmont Rural
12 Cooperative, Inc. As demonstrated in PRTCommunications, LLC's prior certification
13 proceedings, and as demonstrated by its service history and the Annual Reports that are
14 filed with the Commission and the Office of Regulatory Staff by PRTCommunications,
15 LLC, and its parent company on an annual basis, PRTCommunications has the technical,
16 managerial, and financial resources necessary to provide serve in the requested areas.

17
18 **Q. WILL GRANTING PRTCOMMUNICATIONS, LLC'S, REQUEST SERVE THE**
19 **PUBLIC INTEREST?**

20 **A.** Yes. The public interest of the citizens of the South Carolina will be served by granting
21 this Application. As demonstrated in PRTCommunications, LLC's, prior certification
22 proceedings, and as demonstrated by its service history, PRTCommunications, LLC, will
23 meet all service standards that the Commission may adopt, and the provision of the

1 service will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service in
2 South Carolina. PRTCommunications, LLC, will actively participate in the support of
3 universally available telecommunications services at affordable rates.

4
5 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

6 **A.** Yes.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2000-0084-C

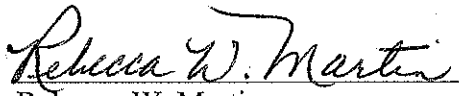
IN RE:

Application of PRTCommunications, LLC for a Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide)
Local Exchange Service to Customers Located in)
Certain Areas of the State of South Carolina Currently)
Being Served by GTE South, Incorporated.)
_____)

**CERTIFICATE
OF SERVICE**

I, Rebecca W. Martin, Secretary for McNair Law Firm, P. A., do hereby certify that I have this date served one (1) copy of the Testimony of James P. Wilder regarding the above-referenced matter on the following party of record by causing said copy to be deposited with the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

C. Lessie Hammonds, Esquire
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
Post Office Box 11263
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August 28, 2006

Columbia, South Carolina